



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

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DPS Officer seizes 300 pounds of marijuana near Benson

On March 8, 2009, at about 6:55 a.m., an officer with the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) stopped a 2006 Dodge Quad Cab pick-up for unsafe lane use. The stop occurred on I-10 westbound between the exits into Benson. The Officer walked up to the vehicle and observed bundles of marijuana in the back seat. During the process of taking the two occupants into custody, the passenger made overt threatening movements causing the officer to deploy his taser. This helped the officer gain the passenger's compliance.

The driver, Severo Torres, 26, of Willcox, Ariz., and the passenger, Luis Lopez Vega, 28, of Mexico, were arrested for possession/transportation of marijuana for sale. Both were booked into the Sierra Vista Jail.

END

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agency in United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix with offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.

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